

Message from the Chair, DoD Ergonomics Working Group

Based on the actions of the House and Senate, it appears the **OSHA Ergonomics Standard will be rescinded**. When President Bush signs it (and it is an almost certainty that he will), the standard will be repealed. This should have no impact on our efforts to rid the workplace of ergonomic hazards. Work-related musculoskeletal (ergonomic) conditions remain a significant problem for both military and civilian personnel, representing—

- Over 20% of DoD military outpatient visits.
- 49% of the military limited duty dispositions.
- 50% of civilian workers' compensation claims.
- 50% of civilian compensation costs.

Ergonomics is an important health and safety issue for DoD.

The repeal of the OSHA Standard has no effect on the current DoD Instruction 6055.1 and Service-specific regulations and guidance on ergonomics. These remain unchanged and in effect.

Our workforce is still faced with many ergonomic workplace hazards that can cause permanently disabling injuries. Please continue to support the DoD Ergonomics Program and strive to eliminate those hazards.

LTC Mary Lopez, SP
Chair, DoD Ergonomics Working Group
<http://chppm-www.apgea.mil/ergowg2/index.htm>

DSN 584-3928
Commercial 410-436-3928

